United Nations A/AC.109/2009/SR.3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 July 2009

Original: English

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Resumed session

Summary record of the 3rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 8 June 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Davies (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Sierra Leone)

Contents

Adoption of the agenda

Requests for hearing

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

Dissemination of information on decolonization

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the record of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

09-36204 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Natalegawa (Indonesia), Mr. Davies (Sierra Leone), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Requests for hearing

2. **The Chairman** drew attention to aides-memoires 07/09, 08/09, 09/09 and 10/09 relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the question of Gibraltar, the Special Committee decision of 9 June 2008 concerning Puerto Rico and the question of Western Sahara, respectively, and to the various communications attached thereto, which contained requests for hearing. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to those requests.

3. *It was so decided.*

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (A/64/67; A/AC.109/2009/L.4)

4. **The Chairman** drew attention to document A/64/67, which contained information provided by the administering Powers under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, and to draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.4.

5. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.4 was adopted.*

Dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2009/18 and Corr.1; A/AC.109/2009/L.5)

6. **Ms. Paula Refolo** (Director, Strategic Communications Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/2009/18 and Corr.1), said that the activities of the Department of Public Information pertaining to decolonization could be broadly characterized as coverage and outreach. Coverage activities had focused on the work of the General Assembly, particularly the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee, whereas outreach activities had been undertaken through the Department's various information and communications tools and through its networks of United Nations information centres.

7. Since the report had been compiled, the Department had deployed a press officer to cover the Caribbean regional seminar held in Saint Kitts and Nevis in May 2009 and had updated the English online version of the brochure entitled "What the UN Can Do to Assist Non-Self-Governing Territories". The updated version would be uploaded to the decolonization page of the United Nations website soon.

8. The decolonization page of the United Nations website remained an important source of information on the Organization's work on decolonization, receiving an estimated 230 views per week and 12,000 views per year. The Department was working closely with the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs, which maintained the decolonization web page, to build a mailing list with a subscription button. The Department of Public Information hoped to use the list to send up-to-date information on decolonization to its target audiences.

9. **Ms. Freda Mackay** (Chief, Decolonization Unit) said that, during the period under review, the Department of Political Affairs had continued, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, to disseminate information about decolonization with a view to informing the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories about the Organization's work in that regard and encouraging steps towards self-determination in those Territories.

10. In preparing working papers for the Committee, the Department of Political Affairs sought the cooperation of the administering Powers in providing information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter; monitored media and Internet sites; and collected, analysed and used relevant information on the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. It also continued to collect and, if so requested, to provide to Member States, representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, schools, organizations and individuals information on decolonization issues.

11. The annual regional seminars provided a valuable opportunity to exchange information on decolonization and enabled the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories to network with representatives of international organizations providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories in the region. The recent Caribbean regional seminar had been attended by representatives of the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization and of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. A statement had been provided by the

United Nations Development Programme. The seminar had also attracted significant media coverage in the region. The Department intended to follow up actively to encourage increased engagement by the United Nations system with the Committee's work.

12. The material distributed at those seminars, at Special Committee and Fourth Committee meetings, and at hearings of petitioners, included three brochures entitled, respectively, "The United Nations and Decolonization", "The United Nations and Decolonization, Questions & Answers" and "What the UN Can Do to Assist Non-Self-Governing Territories". All three were available on the decolonization website. An updated version of the assistance brochure had been published on the decolonization website just the previous month.

13. In 2004, the Decolonization Unit had assumed responsibility for maintaining the decolonization website. In 2007, the Unit, in close consultation with the Department of Public Information, had begun exploring ways of making the website more user-friendly. A new interactive website with over 1,000 files of relevant information had been developed and would be launched shortly, once a number of technical difficulties had been resolved.

14. The Department of Political Affairs had also continued to expand its roster of individual experts, academics and organizations concerned with decolonization and with the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The roster brought participants with new insights to the regional seminars and enabled the Decolonization Unit to expand its network of informal contacts. Moreover, in response to a request by the Committee, statements made at the regional seminars were now posted on the decolonization website.

15. Lastly, the Department of Political Affairs, through its Decolonization Unit, continued to provide updated information to the Public Inquiries Unit and to the Guided Tours Unit, and to update the decolonization chapter in the publication entitled *The United Nations Today*.

16. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.5.

17. **Mr. Cherniavsky** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the text contained in document A/AC.109/2009/L.5 reflected an earlier draft not the version approved by the Committee. Accordingly, in paragraph 2, the words "to empower" should be replaced by the word "through" and the words "to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways" should be inserted before the words "to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories".

18. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.5, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories
(A/AC.109/2009/L.6)

19. **The Chairman** drew attention to draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.6.

20. *Draft resolution A/AC.109/2009/L.6 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.